

Catamount Spirit

A Publication for Faculty and Staff of Potomac State College of West Virginia University

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DATE SET FOR NCA SITE VISIT

The date is set and preparation is underway for the College's 10-year review by the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools, the organization that has accredited Potomac State College of West Virginia University since 1926. The site visit date is set for April 5-7, 2004. According to Professors Dinah Courrier and Judy Ninesteel, co-coordinators of this campus-wide effort, an official kick-off announcing the theme for the self-study, which is actually an internal evaluation, is planned for the fall.

In the meantime, a Resource Room is being prepared in the President's Conference Room in Science Hall. The NCA Evaluation Team will have access to this room with documentation, both hard copy and electronic, that supports our self-study. Resources will include catalogs, the master plan, the compact, annual reports, and minutes as well as other documentation.

According to Prof. Courrier, the first assignment in support of the Resource Room went out to faculty during the April Faculty Assembly Meeting. "They were asked to develop course outlines that will aid in the establishment of goals and objectives and learning outcomes for all courses," said Prof. Courrier.

Both, Professors Courrier and Ninesteel attended the annual NCA meeting in Chicago this past March where they participated in workshops on how to prepare the self-study and on assessment of student learning outcomes.

THE BUS STOPS HERE!

WVU Roads Scholar Tour to Visit Eastern Panhandle

Potomac State College will be the first stop on the schedule for the "West Virginia Country Roads Scholar Tour," a two-day educational tour of the eastern panhandle for WVU faculty. The bus will arrive on Wednesday, May 15, at 9 a.m. President Mary Rittling and college personnel will discuss academic and athletic programs, student growth, and provide a brief tour of the campus.

Last spring, nearly 40 faculty took the two-day tour of sections of central, southern, and western West Virginia. Based on the success of that trip, the university planned this year's trip to eastern West Virginia. The goal is to gain a better understanding of some of the state's growth and workforce issues, to learn how WVU is partnering with communities to enhance the state's quality of life, and to interact with other faculty and community leaders.

The tour was made available to all WVU faculty, including the three regional campuses. It is limited to 45 participants with preference



Academic Standouts – Mary Ellen "Mimi" Vandenberg, a Psychology Instructor, second from left, was named the 2002 Outstanding Professor of the Year. Pictured with her are the other candidates, Jay Badenhoop, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, far left; Deanne Brooke, an English Instructor; and Mark Smith, a Visiting English Instructor.

given to new hires within the past three years.

In addition to Potomac State College, the group's first day agenda includes the Byrd Rocket Center Complex, 23 miles east of the PSC campus; the U.S. Silica, a leading producer of silica and related industrial minerals located near Berkeley Springs; and the National Conservation Training Center, a training facility in Jefferson County for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The second day's agenda includes a tour and presentation of the research and extension programs conducted at the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences Tree Fruit Research and Education facility; a visit to the U.S. Coast Guard Operations System; lunch with Martinsburg Rotary; and a tour of Quad Graphics, an international printing and distribution company in Martinsburg.

OUT AND ABOUT ...

Harlan Shreve, Systems Analyst and Senior Programmer, will be attending the 2002 TECHXNY this summer to be held at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City.

PC EXPO, the expo portion of TECHXNY, is the platform that links leading-edge technologies with business needs. In its 20th year, and still New York's leading technology event, PC EXPO provides business solutions including: PCs and PDAs, security, Internet and wireless solutions, CRM, infrastructure, storage, networking, the latest in LINUX and much more.

Dinah Courrier, Associate Professor of Office Systems Technology, has been invited to serve on a committee to review the report, "The Status of Women in West Virginia." The report was prepared by The Institute for Women's Policy Research with the assistance of the West Virginia Advisory Committee. Co-chairing that committee is Barbara Howe, Ph.D., with the Center for Women's Studies at West Virginia University, and Joan Browning, Ph.D., with Papilion Lane Press.

The contents of the report include women's resources and rights, political participation, employment and earnings, social and economic autonomy, reproductive rights, and health and well-being.

According to Prof. Courrier, over the past four years all 50 states have been reviewed culminating into similar reports. The information will be used to affect policy, whether it is government, social services, health care, etc.

Catamount Spirit

The *Catamount Spirit* is a publication for the faculty and staff of Potomac State College of West Virginia University developed by the Marketing and Communications Department. Suggestions or submissions for articles and comments can be directed to:

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IN THE WORDS OF THE DEAN

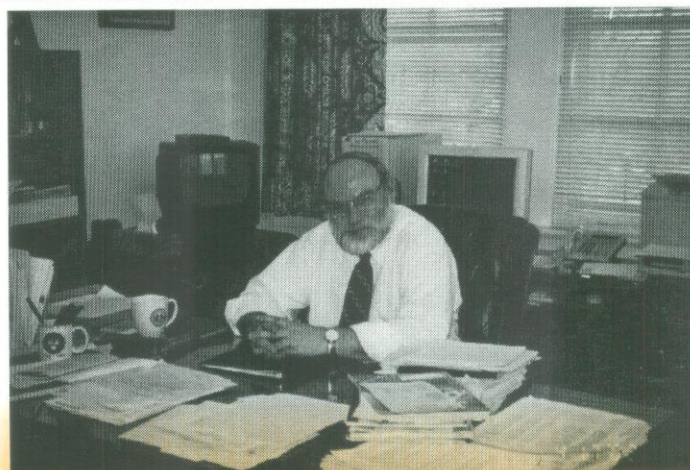
Over the past month, I have been observing, listening, and questioning, using my experience as an academic manager to evaluate strengths and weaknesses. There are many ways for the faculty and for my office to carry out responsibilities effectively. We need to evaluate what we're doing now, and if necessary change to identify processes that are right for us, at our college, in 2002. At any college, at any time, some functions are carried out more effectively than others. Therefore, I have been evaluating institutional effectiveness in my areas of concern as Dean, and considering ways to encourage even greater effectiveness.

I am encouraging academic excellence. For the students who come to Potomac State College during my tenure as Dean, good enough is never good enough. If we as an academic community are continually trying to improve, trying better to help students learn, I will be satisfied. Colleges are by nature places where people discover that they can be more, and better, than they thought possible, or imagined. Hard work and critical thinking are both ingredients in producing that magical outcome.

One of my primary interests is to improve access to PSC programs for all the people of the region. This is a wonderful college, with many majors to choose from and new programs continually being developed. I will be working hard to assure that our academic programs are accessible to all, whether traditional or non-traditional students and whether planning for continued education or immediate employment.

Looking to the future, I am concerned that we continue to maintain an appropriate balance between continuity and change. Potomac State College has carried out its academic mission for 100 years. There are continuities and traditions that we must honor and protect. But the College must also change, in order to offer curricula that meet the changing needs of the people it serves. For example, this may require developing new programs and courses, revising existing programs, or changing our academic delivery systems. We must both understand the past and be responsive to the future.

D. B. Cruse



FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND by Karen Campbell, Professor of Office Technology

Students often ask me, "How much longer will we use the keyboard to enter information into the computer? When will we be able to enter via voice?" My typical response has been "another five or ten years." However, after recently attending the annual Business Educators' Conference held in Philadelphia, PA, my answer has changed dramatically.

Demonstrations were conducted in voice entry with the use of specialized software and trained computers. After a short 20- to 30-minute training period, computer operators were able to enter information at a rapid rate with a high degree of accuracy. It was reported that most proficient operators are able to dictate information at approximately 160 wpm with 98 percent accuracy.

One of the most fascinating features could be taken straight out of a Ray Bradbury novel and that is the computer's ability to distinguish voice commands from textual information. This capability allows the user to launch programs, create documents, generate e-mail, and manage multiple documents without touching the keyboard or mouse.

While voice entry is relatively easy to use, training is necessary. It is my intention to attend formal training this summer and apply for grant funding to equip an entire classroom with voice software and equipment. This is another exciting step in the evolution of computer technology and I am looking forward to training our students with this specialized skill in the world of information technology.



"Interviewing Over Dinner. Rare, Medium or Well Done?" was the name of the interactive luncheon sponsored by the Alumni Association. The program gave nearly 20 students the opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding dining etiquette. The program was presented by Stacey Deatherage, Catering Operations Manager from Virginia Tech, standing right, and Anthony Purcell, Director of Catering also from Virginia Tech. Coordinating the program were Carol Combs, PSC Dining Services Manager, and Libby Nichols, Alumni Development Associate.

"I Survived Boot Camp for PROFS!"

Mary Ellen "Mimi" Vandenberg, Judy Ninesteel and Lawrence Moore are heading West this July ... to "Boot Camp for PROFS," in Colorado, a unique weeklong program dedicated to celebrating and enhancing college teaching.

The "Camp" addresses that there is no universal "best" teaching system, but there is a best system for each instructor – namely the system that most effectively helps the instructor with his or her program to achieve the outcomes desired and the program promised to students. Discovering the instructor's personal system and how it fits into the larger educational picture explains "Boot Camp."

Camp participation is limited to 20 faculty. Other distinguishing characteristics for "Boot Camp 2002" include: workshops that result in attendants preparing actual materials onsite for their own classes, receipt of a personal library of acclaimed resource books, and an emphasis on how to become increasingly successful in each passing future year. In addition to teaching, emphasis is also given to more rarely considered aspects of career success such as becoming a better colleague and becoming a better advisor for students.

All activities will take place at Colorado Mountain Colleges' Timeline Campus from July 21 through 27. Housing will be in the new dormitories on campus.

PSC Connections 2002 Welcome Weekend

Friday, August 16

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Meet Your RA – New Students move into Residence Halls

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Course Registration – Church-McKee Arts Center

Payment of Bills & Financial Aid – Church-McKee Arts Center

(Students must have completed registration before bill payment). Information about meal plans and daycare services will be available. Also obtain parking permits.

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch on the Quad – catered by Potomac Café

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

New Student Welcome – Church-McKee Arts Center Auditorium

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM

"Making College Count" – Church-McKee Arts Center Auditorium
Guest speaker: [to be announced].

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Meet with your PSC Connections Catamount Pride Leaders – Church-McKee Arts Center

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Parents Information Session – Church-McKee Arts Center Auditorium

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Topics include: Adjusting to being the parent of a college student, student services, residence hall and college policies and procedures, financial planning.

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Dinner on the Quad – catered by Potomac Café

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Residence Hall meetings
Snacks and drinks provided.

8:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Meet with your Catamount Pride Leaders

9:00 PM – 12:00 mid

Live DJ & Casino Night – Lough Gymnasium

Food and drinks will be provided.

Saturday, August 17

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Continental Breakfast – Potomac Café

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Meet with your Catamount Pride Leaders – Locations will be assigned

10:30 AM – 12:40 PM

Student Information Seminars – Science Hall and Academy Hall

(A) “Alcohol & Responsible Drinking” with April House – Room SCI 220 Session 1 10:30 – 11:10 AM

(B) “Boundary Setting” with Molly Alvaro-Smith – Room AC 207 Session 2 11:15 – 11:55 AM

(C) “Relationships & Campus Life”, with Mimi Vandenberg and Mary Kaye Staggers – Room AC 210 Session 3 12:00 – 12:40 AM

You will attend the three seminars during the three sessions at locations and in the order directed by your Catamount Pride Leader (A-B-C, B-C-A, or C-A-B).

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

PSC Mixer – Picnic at South End Park (map will be provided)
Bring your swimsuit! Swimming, volleyball, tennis, basketball, and more! Shuttle service to and from the park.

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Faculty, staff, family members, alumni and community leaders are invited.
Games on the Quad – “Fantasy World”
Inflatable Games
Dunk Tank, Gladiator Joust, Rock Climbing, Twister, and more! Food, fun, and prizes!

8:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Meet with your Catamount Pride Leaders

9:00 PM – 12:00 mid

Karaoke Night – Potomac Café,
Food and drinks

Movies in the Residence Halls provided.

Sunday, August 18

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Returning Students move into Residence Halls

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Alumni Welcome Brunch – Potomac Café (*Meet PSC alumni*)

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Live DJ and Organized Games on the Quad
More fun and prizes!

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Monday, August 19

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Catamount Session for Student Athletes – Lough Gymnasium

Session For Student Support Services
Candidates and Students With Disabilities – Science Hall Room 108

Meet with our ADA Coordinator and Student Support Services Director and learn what we can do to help you succeed!

Dinner With Faculty – Potomac Café

Convocation – Church-McKee Arts Center Auditorium

PSC Mixer – Church-McKee Arts Center

“Dealing With Diversity” – Church-McKee Arts Center

Guest speaker: Jennifer McIntosh, WVU Social Justice

Residence Hall Meetings

Pizza and pop will be provided.

(Regular course & lab schedule begins)

Course Registration – Church-McKee Arts Center

Payment of Bills & Financial Aid – Church-McKee Arts Center

(Students must have completed registration before bill payment).

Advisor/Advisee Meeting

Advisors meet with their advisees to outline requirements for their major(s). If you registered with someone who is not your advisor, bring your schedule to this session for your advisor to make sure it is correct.

Student Information Fair and Block Party on the Quad

Lots of food, music, and learn what there is to do on and off campus! Topics include:

“Where Do I Find It?”, “Things to Do in Keyser”, Health Services & Counseling, Campus Safety, Student Support Services, Potomac Café & Hilltop Café Employment, Banking Information, Pasquino (Student Newspaper), Intramurals, Athletics, Opportunities in Music, Opportunities in Agriculture/Ag-Forestry Club, SGA (Student Government Association), Student Organizations (Business Club, Christian Youth Fellowship, Circle K, Commuter Students, Computer Club, Equestrian Club, Explorer Club, 4-H Club, Geology Club, Life Science Club, Modern Languages Club, Outdoor Club, Ski Club, etc.), and various Community stores and restaurants.